



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

For Your Information...

'Love A Tree South Carolina'

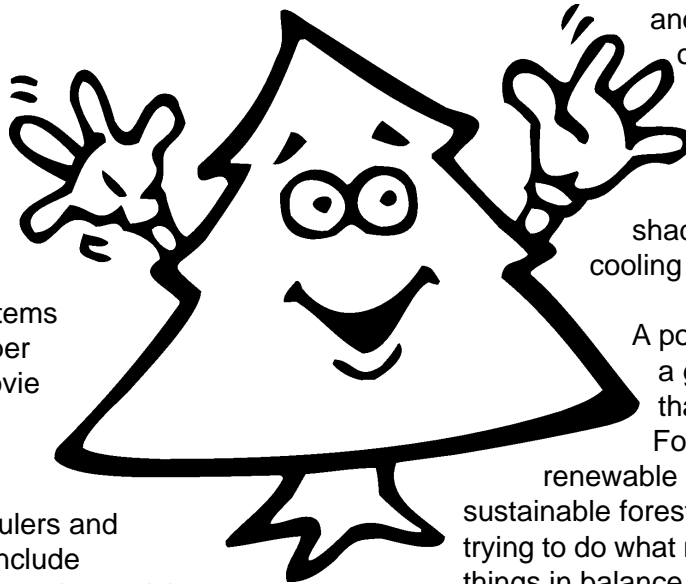
**Did you know
more than 5,000
products we use
everyday are
made from trees?**

Trees supply thousands of products for our daily lives. Items made from trees include paper products like newspaper, movie tickets, baseball cards and computer paper. Hardwood products include lumber for new homes, baseball bats, rulers and fences. Tree bark products include corkboards, shoe polish and garden mulch. Tree extract products include cologne, baby food, clothing, carpeting, luggage, football helmets, hair spray, toothpaste and deodorant. Given that, it is no surprise that the average American uses more than 700 pounds of paper each year.

Did you know that South Carolina has more than 12 million acres of forests? And that South Carolina ranked fifth nationally for the number of tree seedlings planted annually? Across the country, more than 72 percent of forest land is in small, individually owned tracts where intensive forestry management is rarely practiced. Some 18 percent is owned and managed by large forest industries, while public ownership accounts for the remainder, almost 10 percent.

But even though we have many trees we don't want to waste them. By using as much of the tree as possible, we can be sure that we always will be able to enjoy the benefits that come from this valuable resource.

Some of those benefits directly impact the environment. For example, forests help clean our air and reduce global warming by trapping carbon dioxide



and generating life-giving oxygen. The planting of trees results in less runoff and erosion and improved water quality. Trees even save energy by providing shade. In fact, one tree has the cooling effect of five air conditioners.

A population increase has created a greater demand for products that come from trees. Fortunately, trees are a renewable resource. That is why sustainable forestry is so important – it means trying to do what nature does on its own: keep things in balance. When trees are cut down, new trees are planted or they regrow naturally.

Many scientists and environmentalists argue, however, that not enough is being done to protect forests. Studies show that, worldwide, one-third of the area originally covered by forests and woodlands is now empty of trees. While most of the deforestation has stopped in developed countries, it is still proceeding in underdeveloped countries.

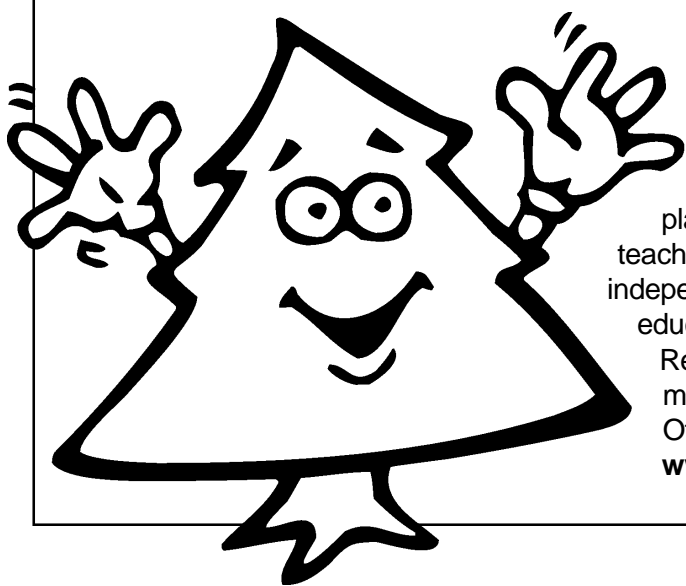
The Many Uses of Trees

- **BENEFIT TO ANIMALS AND BIRDS:** Trees provide shelter and food for many animals. Beavers use the soft inner tree bark to build dams and birds eat seeds from trees.
- **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:** Many musical instruments, such as harps, pianos, woodwinds and violins are made with wood.
- **RECREATION:** Trees offer shade on a hot sunny day and make our surroundings more beautiful. Hiking and camping are some of the popular uses of the forest.

- **TRANSPORTATION:** For many centuries, people used wood to build ships. Horses pulled wooden carts so they could move heavy objects. Families traveled west on covered wagons. Wood and wood products are still used today in automobiles and boats.
- **CLOTHING:** People used dyes made from trees to color cloth. Today, fabrics like rayon are made from cellulose we get from trees.
- **SHELTER:** Older building styles, such as the beehive and medieval building frame, were constructed using big columns and beams made from solid wood. Today's platform frame is a more

efficient use of a tree because its lighter and uses smaller wood materials while maintaining the strength and support we need.

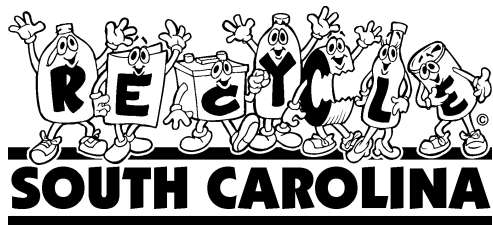
- **TOOLS:** People all over the world have used wood to make utensils, baskets, tools and devices for hunting and fishing. Even modern tools, like screwdrivers, use chemicals from wood to make the hard plastic handles.
- **FOOD:** Trees provide an abundance of fruits and nuts. Chocolate, coffee, maple syrup, many spices and olive, almond and coconut oils also come from trees.



'Love A Tree South Carolina'

"Love A Tree South Carolina" is a hands-on educational program to teach students about forest stewardship, including paper recycling, and the important role trees play in our everyday lives. The program is designed for teachers to use with their classes or for students working independently. "Love A Tree South Carolina" is provided by an education partnership between DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling and International Paper. To learn more about "Love A Tree South Carolina," visit DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Web site at www.scdhec.net/recycle or call 1-800-768-7348.

INTERNATIONAL  PAPER



Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
1-800-768-7348
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